

Message Text

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TAGS: SPON, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TRIP

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PAPERS OF FEBRUARY 13 REMAIN SHARPLY DIVIDED ON SUBJECT OF SECRETARY'S LATEST MIDEAST TRIP. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" IS OPTIMISTIC THAT U.S. INTENDS TO FACILITATE SOLUTION BY PUTTING DECISIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND CITES PRESIDENT'S LATEST PRESS CONFERENCE AS EVIDENCE. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ", CALLING SECRETARY'S LATEST TRIP "DECISIVE", PUTS ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SUCCESS OR FAILURE ON ISRAEL AND U.S. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" AND PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" BOTH FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SUCCESS FOR LATEST MISSION, BUT VIEW THIS AS ISRAELI-AMERICAN VICTORY AND ARAB DEFEAT. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHAEL ABU JAWDEH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "THREATS OF WAR AND OIL EMBARGO ARE NO LONGER RESTRICTED TO ARABS. PRESIDENT FORD HAS ADOPTED THEM AND

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USED THEM TO FRIGHTEN AMERICAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL'S

SUPPORTERS, OVER PERILS OF FAILURE BY DR. KISSINGER...
ACUTALLY, AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S THREATENING TALK IS SHARPEST
DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN POSITION IN DIRECTION OF PRESSURE
TO REACH PHASED AGREEMENT ... IT HAS BECOME ABUDNANTLY
CLEAR THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS RESPONDED TO PRESIDENT
SADAT'S APPEAL AND TO EFFORTS OF ARAB OIL STATES THAT ARE
ABOUT TO HOLD DECISIVE SUMMIT AND HAS PUT OPEN PRESSURE ON
ISRAEL IN ADDITION TO PRESUMED SECRET PRESSURE ABOUT WHICH
ISRAEL SOURCES HAVE SPOKEN EXTENSIVELY."

3. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES: "KEY TO PEACE IN THIS AREA
AND PROBABLY IN ENTIRE WORLD IS NOW IN HANDS OF ZIONIST
ENEMY. IT AND ONE WHO IS HOLDING ITS HAND AND CANFORCE IT
TO SIGN WHAT NEEDS SIGNING ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCCESS OR
FAILURE OF AMERICAN SECRETARY AND FOR RESULTS OF SUCH SUCCESS
OR FAILURE... IN THIS LIGHT, AMERICAN SECRETARY'S PRESENT
TOUR IS THE DECISIVE -- IF NOT THE LAST -- VISIT BECAUSE
TIME IS RUNNING SHOT, AND SO IS ARAB PATIENCE."

4. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" WRITES IN
FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL:" "ALTHOUGH KISSINGER'S MISSION HAS
NOT YET ENDED, THAT PART OF IT WHICH HAS PUTS IT ON ROAD
TO SUCCESS. SUCCESS HERE WILL BE THAT OF ISRAELI-AMERICAN
SCHEMES, WHICH ARE BASED ON DEALING WITH ARAB FRONTS ONE
AFTER THE OTHER THROUGH PARTIAL OR ISOLATED SETTLEMENTS
WHICH ARE PRESENTED BY AMERICAN SECRETARY AND ARE ACCEPTED,
EVEN WELCOMED, BY SOME ARAB REGIMES... IF THINGS GO ON
THIS WAY, SECOND PART OF AMERICAN CONSPIRACY WILL HAVE
SUCCEEDED FULLY. FIRST PART TOOK FORM OF WELL KNOWN
DISENGAGEMENT OPERATION."

5. SULAYMAN AL-FIRIZLI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF PRO-IRAQI
"BEIRUT", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITIRIAL: "KISSINGER IS
DRAWING UP HIS PLANS ON BASIS OF MAKING ARABS INSTRUMENT FOR
PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN AND ISRAELI SECURITY. HE WANTS
MILITARY BASES ON THEIR TERRITORY, AND HE HAS STARTED TO
ACQUIRE THEM. HE WANTS TO SECURE FLOW OF ARAB OIL TO U.S. AT
REDUCED PRICES AND TO PRECLUDE ANY NEW EMBARGO...OR THOUGHT
OF USING OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON. HE HAS BEGUN TAKING SERIES
OF STEPS IN THIS REGARD IN COOPERATION WITH SAUDI RABIA...
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SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL WILL MATERIALIZE IFF BASIC OBJECTIVES
OF ARAB NATION, ESPECIALLY THAT OF COMBATTING
IMPERIALISM (OF WHICH ISRAEL IS INTEGRAL PART), ARE
ABANDONED."
GODLEY

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